

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A novel process for the recovery of a macrolide in substantially pure form comprising:

- a) ~~treatment of~~ treating an impure or crude macrolide with water immiscible solvent to form a mixture,
- b) optionally ~~concentration~~ concentrating of the mixture,
- c) ~~treatment~~ treating with ammonia gas to phase out impurities,
- d) ~~separation of~~ separating impurities,
- e) optionally ~~concentration of~~ concentrating ~~the a~~ phase containing the macrolide,
- f) loading on silica gel chromatography, wherein silica gel is optionally reversed phase or pretreated with silver, and ~~elution of~~ eluting the macrolide,
- g) affording the macrolide in the substantially pure form,
- h) optionally ~~repetition of~~ repeating steps f and g to afford the macrolide in the substantially pure form.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ process as in claim 1, wherein the macrolide is a member selected from the group consisting of tacrolimus, immunomycin or and sirolimus.

3. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ process as in claim 1, wherein the water immiscible

solvent is a member selected from a-the group comprising-consisting of hydrocarbons, heterocyclic compounds, ethers ~~or~~ and esters.

4. (Currently Amended) A-~~The~~ process as in claim 1, wherein the water immiscible solvents is a member selected from a-the group comprising-consisting of benzene, toluene, hexane, ethyl acetate, isobutyl acetate ~~or~~ and butyl acetate.

5. (Currently Amended) A-~~The~~ process as in claim 1, wherein the macrolide compound is afforded by crystallization or precipitation.

6. (Currently Amended) A-~~The~~ process as in claim 1, wherein the crystallization is carried out using solvents selected from ethyl acetate, diethyl ether, acetonitrile, ~~and~~ or hexane.

7. (Currently Amended) A-~~The~~ process as in claim 1, wherein the macrolide is obtained by fermentation.

8. (Currently Amended)-A~~The~~ process as in claim 1, wherein the macrolide is obtained by synthetic process.

9. (Currently Amended) A-~~The~~ process as in claim 1, comprising:

a) ~~treatment-of~~ treating an impure or crude macrolide with water immiscible solvent to form a mixture,

b) ~~optionally concentration-of~~ concentrating the mixture,

c) ~~treatment-treating~~ with ammonia gas to phase out impurities,

d) ~~separation-separating~~ of impurities,

e) ~~optionally concentration-concentrating of~~ the phase containing the macrolide,

- f) loading on silica gel chromatography and ~~elution of~~ eluting the macrolide,
  - g) optionally concentrating ~~concentration~~ and mixing with the water immiscible solvent,
  - h) affording macrolide in purer form,
  - i) loading on silica gel chromatography pretreated with silver and ~~elution of~~ eluting the macrolide,
  - j) affording the macrolide in the substantially pure form.
10. (Currently Amended) A-~~The~~ process as in claim 1, comprising:
- a) ~~treating treatment of~~ an impure or crude macrolide with water immiscible solvent,
  - b) optionally concentrating ~~concentration~~ of the mixture,
  - c) ~~treating treatment~~ with ammonia gas to phase out impurities,
  - d) ~~separation of~~ separating impurities,
  - e) optionally concentrating ~~concentration~~ of the phase containing the macrolide,
  - f) loading on silica gel chromatography and ~~elution of~~ eluting the macrolide,
  - g) optionally concentrating ~~concentration~~ and mixing with water immiscible solvent,
  - h) affording macrolide in purer form,
  - i) loading on reversed phase silica chromatography and ~~elution of~~ eluting the macrolide,
  - j) affording the macrolide in the substantially pure form.